

# The Challenge

Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, California

May 2004

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## Sierra Army Depot dedication honors native son

By Barbara France  
Staff Writer, Lassen County News

Sierra Army Depot has a new headquarters building and according to Col. Paul Plemmons it is the only building with a name not a number. In April, the building was officially named the Lowry Memorial Building in honor of Lassen County native son Leonard Lowry.

During an early morning ceremony many SIAD personnel along with Lowry's family and friends gathered to honor the soldier, the father and the Maidu elder in a brief but symbolic occasion. Joining the family were also Lassen County dignitaries supervisors Jim Chapman and Jack Hanson, Susanville councilmembers Lino Callegari and Mary Fahlen and Susanville City Administrator Newell Sorenson.

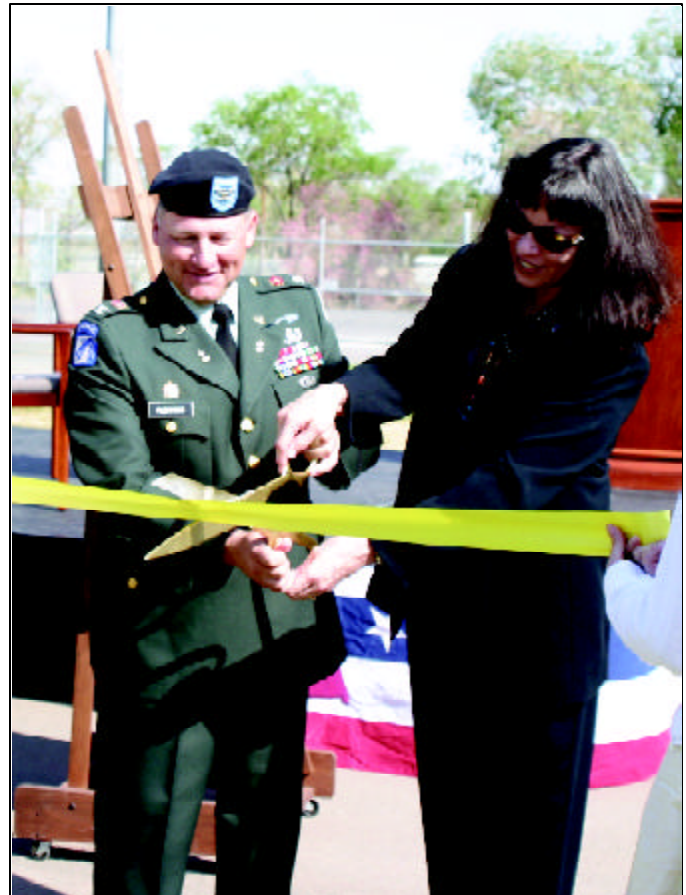
The ceremony began with the Star Spangled Banner sung by SIAD employee Lynette Hall. Lassen County veterans presented the colors. Ken Auld asked God for His favor and blessing on the ceremony. "We beseech you Lord for your protection of our country and our

troops who are stationed around the world. Keep them safe and provide their every need," prayed Auld.

Talking to the family and paying tribute to Lowry, Plemmons, the SIAD commander, said, "As a soldier for as many years as I have been doing this business, there are no words to express the honor of being part of this ceremony. It is men like Leonard Lowry who have caused me to be in the profession of arms for the 32 years I have been in it.

"Leonard Lowry and those like him not only did the great things they did. This is a multiplication problem. Those feats they did and do on the battle field turned the tides of battle in our favor. But then also they served generations down the line to inspire people to at least be as good as they were. You never approach it. "

*(More news on this event page 3)*



Colonel Paul Plemmons, commander SIAD and Judith Lowry-Croul, Lowry's daughter, cut a yellow ribbon, during a memorial ceremony held in April dedicating the depot's new headquarters building in honor of U.S. Army Lt Col. Leonard Lowry posthumously.

## Sierra receives transportation award

By Jon France  
SIAD Transportation Officer

Sierra Army Depot transportation staff were the recipients of a prestigious transportation achievement award presented in March by the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC).

The SDDC Shipper Performance Award was presented to our depot Transportation Division, in the medium shippers category, for exceeding timelines established in the Defense Transportation Regulation for timeliness of electronic transportation movement data and accuracy in 2003. Major General Dunworthy, SDDC Commander, presented the award. She recognized the award winners as the best of the best. Sierra Army Depot was recognized as the top 1% of over 1,100 shippers that supply our warfighters.

The recognition Sierra Army Depot was an achievement for many reasons. First, the award is a tribute to my staff for all of the hard and timely work that was done in moving over 70,000 ST in 2003 by Air, Motor and Vessel shipment to support all of the requirements for our warfighters. Second, it is a tribute to all of the employees of Sierra that did the COSIS, prepared and executed shipments. Many countless after hour efforts have taken place since 9/11 to support our troops during Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. To recognize the total team effort during our shipment efforts, the award was

*(Continued on page 8)*



(Back Row Left to Right) Brenda Fletcher, Linda Brown, Dan Donovan, Bill Russ, Cecil Fain, Jon France (Front Row Left to Right) Virginia Bartholomew, Joni Pitt.

## Commander's View

As some of you may have already heard a new compensatory time policy is being considered. A cap of 80-hours of compensatory time is being considered.

Compensatory time is defined as "time off with pay in lieu of overtime pay for irregular or occasional overtime work."

One hour of compensatory time off is granted for each hour of overtime work.

Compensatory time may be requested by employees who are covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), general schedule employees who are exempt from the FLSA and



Vincent Sabatino

earn less than the maximum pay of a GS-10, and Federal wage system employees. Compensatory time must be used by the end of the 26th pay period after it is earned or it will be paid to the employee at

the overtime rate at which it was earned.

~~A cap of 80-hours of compensatory time can be authorized. Once the cap is reached, employees will have to receive overtime pay for any overtime worked. Employees may request additional compensatory time for overtime worked. Employees may request additional compensatory time for overtime work only if compensatory time off has been taken and the overtime work will not exceed the agreed upon cap. Management of compensatory times earned will be the responsibility of both the employee working the overtime and the supervisor.~~

## The Union's Position: AFGE, Local 1808

Here are a couple of issues that you probably have heard about but would like to know more about than what you hear through the rumor mill. I will try and keep you up dated as these to issue develop.

### BRAC 05:

In May 05 the Secretary of Defense will submit the list of Bases to be realigned or closed to the BRAC Commission. In September the Commission will then deliver their recommendation to the President who will in turn then pass the list onto Congress who will accept or reject the list in its entirety.

What is the Department of the Army doing to protect its assets? The Department of the Army has created The Army Basing Study (TABS) group, which will assist the Army in deciding which installations fit their future mission requirements, either close or realign. DA has sent out a battery of questions to all its installations to



Jim Swistowicz

answer, in order to best determine which installations to close or realign. The Army is the only agency in the Department of Defense that has done this.

The House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee on May 6<sup>th</sup> 04 approved a two-year delay of the next round of military base closings. Making up a part of the fiscal 2005 defense authorization

bill, the panel added language to require the Defense Department to provide Congress with a handful of studies by the end of 2005, delaying any further closing decisions until 18 months after the last study is delivered to lawmakers. This doesn't mean that we are out of the woods yet, it has to pass the Senate and House Conference Committee and then the President could veto the amendment. In the past two years this same type of language has been attached to the defense appropriations bill and has never made it past committee vote. We will have to wait and see what happens.

### Overtime Legislation:

The Senate approved on May 4<sup>th</sup> 04 an amendment offered by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) to the Foreign Sales Corporation tax legislation (S. 1637) that blocks the Bush Administration from implementing final regulations which take away workers' overtime pay rights.

The Senate-passed Harkin amendment blocks the sections of the final Bush overtime pay regula-

tions that take away overtime pay eligibility from workers. At the same time, it allows the Bush Administration to proceed with any part of its final overtime regulations that expands overtime pay coverage. For example, the Harkin amendment permits the part of the final Bush regulations that increases the minimum entitlement to overtime pay from \$8,060 to \$23,660, thereby making more low-wage workers automatically eligible for overtime.

The fate of the Harkin amendment is unclear. It was approved as an amendment to S. 1637, a corporate tax overhaul bill that faces continuing obstacles in the Senate. House Republican leaders are expected to pressure their members not to adopt similar language as part of its version of the corporate tax overhaul bill. And, even if the Harkin amendment passes in both chambers, it still would likely face a veto by President Bush.

We have our monthly Union Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at bldg. 58 at 5:15 pm. Union Office ext. is 5375.

## The Challenge

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Col. Paul Plemmons  
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fit space.





# Lowry Memorial Building dedication

(News continued from page 1)

By Barbara France Lassen County Times Staff Writer

Sierra Army Depot has a new headquarters building and according to Col. Paul Plemmons it is the only building with a name not a number.

Tuesday, April 27, the building was officially named the Lowry Memorial Building in honor of Lassen County native son Leonard Lowry.

During an early morning ceremony many SIAD personnel along with Lowry's family and friends gathered to honor the soldier, the father and the Maidu elder in a brief but symbolic occasion.

Joining the family were also Lassen County dignitaries supervisors Jim Chapman and Jack Hanson, Susanville councilmembers Lino Callegari and Mary Fahlen and Susanville City Administrator Newell Sorenson.

The ceremony began with the Star Spangled Banner sung by SIAD employee Lynette Hall. Lassen County veterans presented the colors.

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Talking to the family and paying tribute to Lowry, Plemmons, the SIAD commander, said, "As a soldier for as many years as I have been doing this business, there are no words to express the honor of being part of this ceremony. It is men like Leonard Lowry who have caused me to be in the profession of arms for the 32 years I have been in it."

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Plemmons said he asked Larry



Judith Lowry-Croul and Col. Paul Plemmons unveil memorial plaque for the building.

Rogers, Veterans Affairs officer for an idea of who the building should be dedicated for, and there was no question it should be named for Lowry.

Lowry's daughter, Judith Lowry-Croul speaking for the family said, "My father was proud of living in the Honey Lake Valley. He often said he was fighting for the Honey Lake Valley. I think dad is smiling today. He loved this community." Lowry-Croul thanked all the men who served under her father. He would not have been able to do what he did without them.

"A good soldier hates war but faces it like the grim duty that it is and does it well. My father I hope he serves as an inspiration to all young soldiers going to war. They also take with them our prayers from Lassen County," said Lowry-Croul.

After his 27-years of military service, Lowry came back to Lassen County and taught Native America studies at Lassen Community College and Feather River College. He also visited every school in the county sharing Indian stories with the community. He was also involved in the Susanville Indian Rancheria.

Chapman said Lowry was a "larger than life figure" in his life.

"It was an awesome experience to see this war hero come home and be honored the way he was," Chapman said.

Chapman mentioned Lowry was buried next to Tommy Tucker, another Native American war hero, in Susanville's Pioneer Cemetery.

"It is fitting they serve as sentinels on the west end of the valley

overlooking the domain and guarding our spirits. I ride my bicycle to the Wendel area, out to the Tommy Tucker Caves and there is a point that guards the east end of the valley. Now with naming this building the Lowry Memorial Building we have two sentinels on the east end of the valley guarding our heritage and future."

A bronze plaque was unveiled at the ceremony. It reads: In dedication of LTC Leonard Lowry, May 16, 1920-Aug. 17, 1999. World War II, Korea, Vietnam; Achievements/Honors: Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star (2), Purple Heart (5), Legion of Merit, WWII Victory Medal; LTC Lowry served in the famous Second American Infantry Indian Head Divisions during the Korean War. He was the most decorated and highest-ranking Native American to serve in World War II.

The ceremony ended with Fred Metz playing and singing "The Army Song," the 2nd infantry division theme — "Colonel Boogie March" and Taps.

## Life achievement

Lowry was born May 16, 1920 in Milford. He joined the Army at age 20, along with his brother Stanley, at the start of World War II. Leonard fought in the Pacific theater while Stanley fought in Europe.

As a Lieutenant Colonel, Lowry

retired in 1967 after spending 27 years as a soldier and leader and served in three wars: World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Lowry shared some of his Korean War stories with his nephew Ike Lowry. "Before my uncle joined the military he was a professional boxer. He won the Golden Gloves as a young boxer in the Light Heavy Weight division. He remained a great fan of the sport throughout his life."

Lowry also told family members during one of the fiercest battles of the Pusan perimeter during the Korean War, while laid up in a combat hospital tent, he received a vision of his grandmother speaking to him. "... get out of there and get back to the fighting!" Seizing his weapon, he sprang from his bed and proceeded to lead his men over an embattled hill and drive the enemy back. Moments later the hospital was leveled by mortar fire.

"My father was a very modest man," said Lowry-Croul. "Though many honors, recognitions and appreciation were awarded to Lowry during and after his service to his country, we would want all to know and understand that it was the sacrifices and valor of the many men who served under him," said family members in the dedication brochure.

He was awarded five Purple Heart medals while suffering 22 entrance and exit wounds in combat.

He also earned the Distinguished Service Cross and two Silver Stars in addition to the Legion of Merit and World War II Victory medals, among other honors.

He served with the famous Second American Infantry Indian Head Division during the Korean War and his men told radio personality Lowell Thomas Lowry was "the bravest man they had ever seen in action."

Lowry, the most decorated and highest ranking Native American to serve in World War II, was buried by special Lassen County Resolution in the Susanville Pioneer Cemetery, following his death, August 17, 1999.

## Reno high school students tackle team skills training course



Above Photo: There are two events here. In the foreground is the pole where a JRTC student climbs a telephone pole and balances on a spinning disk. The second event here is called the wall where 3 cadets are tied to each other by a rope. The 3 must stay together and help each to complete the event.

Photo on right: Two cadets from the Reno Huskies climb the high Y.



North Valleys High School JROTC cadets march in formation as part of their training.



## 101st Combat Operations Group field training exercise



This U.S. Air Force unit trained at the airfield in May and practiced how to operate a small airport in a field environment.

# Mormon crickets invade depot

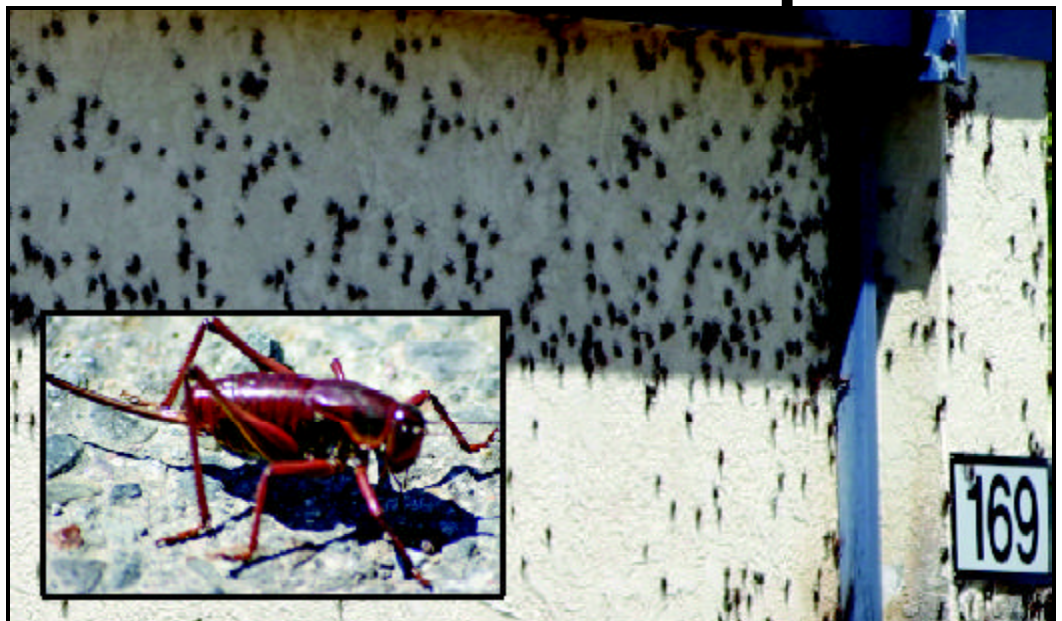
Herlong is experiencing a mass migration of Mormon crickets. Depot staff are working with county, state and federal officials to mitigate the impact of the crickets on the depot, county and Susanville area.

### By Utah State University

The Mormon cricket is not a true cricket. The insect resembles more a lifestyle of a grasshopper. Mormon crickets are of economic importance in the fact that they destroy plants on rangeland, cropland, and vegetable gardens.

Male and female Mormon crickets are large insects and can reach lengths of two and one-half inches during the adult stage. The female Mormon cricket is distinguished by the long ovipositor that also looks like a type of "stinger" located at the end of the abdomen. The male lacks this ovipositor.

The Mormon cricket can be economically devastating. It has been calculated that a Mormon cricket at a density of one per square yard can consume 38 pounds of dry weight rangeland forage per acre. In Utah, the Mormon cricket destroys sagebrush, alfalfa, small grains, seeds, grasses, and vegetable crops.



Mormon crickets invade Sierra Army Depot in May during their annual migration. It's just been in recent years that the crickets have entered into California from Nevada.

## Depot Technical Assistance Team: Afghanistan 2003



(above photo) An Afghan looking for work at the U.S. Military Base in Selerino, Afghanistan. Most local workers were farmers before the war.

(photo to the left) From Left-Right) Dennis, Bobby Hammond, Stu Kenworthy, Chris Vaughn, Archie Smith, Robby Robbins

(Photos by Stewart Kenworthy SIAD DTAT Team Leader)



A Force Provider City begins to take shape in Afghanistan



By Susie Stevens

Sierra Army Depot has highly specialized teams that deploy with some depot equipment when it is needed by the military. This article details the work done by one such team dubbed a Depot Technical Assistance Team (DTAT). This team is deployed with "Force Provider" equipment. Often this equipment is needed in remote parts of the world like Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait or Africa. DTAT team members have about 7-days before they depart on a mission once a call comes in that Force Provider equipment is needed.

SIAD is partners with Letterkenny Army Depot in Pennsylvania for the purpose of training military contractor employees how to set-up, operate and disassemble what the military dubs "FORCE Provider" equipment or what others call tent cities. These teams deploy together when a call comes in that the DTAT team is needed.

Force Provider is a modular system that can be customized to fit any size of military unit. Usually soldiers live in Spartan field conditions until this equipment arrives. Force Provider supplies all of life's essentials with a few extras: a multitude of recreational equipment; housing, laundry equipment, chapel, a

modern kitchen which might make a chief jealous, dining room, shower units, flush toilets, air conditioning and heating units. It has everything a small city needs to operate independently.

Steward Kenworthy, SIAD DTAT team leader works in the business development office in Herlong, Calif. until he gets a call that his 5-member team is needed for a mission. One such call came in December requesting that he and one member of his team (Chris Vaughn) come to Selerino, Afghanistan to train local military contract workers how to assemble a "Force Provider" tent city that will be home to thousands of soldiers.

Upon arriving in Solerno, Afghanistan the team couldn't help but notice the primitive living conditions under which the coalition forces live until the Force Provider equipment arrives.

"Soldiers are glad to see us because they know we are here to improve their living conditions", Kenworthy said.

Most of the local men were farmers before the war. Now, many of the local men look for jobs with military contractors. It was evident to the team that many of the Afghan men had never held a hammer or pounded a nail before.

Team members often work 16-hour days 7-days a week to complete their task. During the evening hours, the team completes much of the paperwork. Workers soon begin building the platforms necessary for the housing and other facilities to be set upon.

The laundry, shower and flush toilets come next as a Force Provider City begins to take

First the team meets with military contractors and their employees who will need training. "We teach them to set up the frame work and the tent-age and all the parts that go along with it", Kenworthy said.

Next the team meets with military commanders who direct how the Force Provider City should be laid out and where the equipment is needed. After that a general layout is completed and now the Force Provider equipment begins to arrive in stages.

shape. "Getting water to where the laundry needs to go was the hard part of this job", Kenworthy said. A trench had to be dug and piping laid which took about 2-days before the facilities were ready for use.

Soldiers usually cook their meals over an open-flame using gas in the field to heat Meals-Ready-to-Eat before the modern kitchen equipment arrives. After about 4-days a modern kitchen is ready for use.

"This job took us 3-months to complete the necessary training. The work continues after we leave", Kenworthy said.

Sierra's DTAT team gets deployed several times a year and never knows where they might need to go until the call comes in. "Knowing what we do helps the soldier by improving his/her quality of life is the reason I like to do this job", said Kenworthy.



## Sierra Depot assists with T55-GA-714A Modifications

(Article from the FEDS Times 10 May 2004)

The T55-GA-714A Feds Upgrade (Tim MacDonald-MWO Lead & Instructor, Mark Vandeburg and James Manatt from Sierra Army Depot) just completed upgrading the 1108th MS AVCRAD FEDS. CH-47 PMO's Gary Huenink-AEPCO, Honeywell's Ron Wachs, and Howell Instruments' Brian Byrne and Mitch Boeshart implemented the latest changes, creating a final software version with an updated ATP, MWO and FADEC manuals package to reflect the current operation/configuration; now that the effort is complete, all existing Upgraded FEDS with the 714A

capabilities will soon receive the updates. Gary Huenink, Mark Beeman (RDECOM Propulsion) and the Honeywell team are pursuing a SOW for a software upgrade to have AEDATS II compute torque compensation for the operators without an Oil Temperature Control Unit installed on FEDS for the IMT torque system. After proven and accepted by RDECOM, the software update should be available in FY05.

Remember, direct all T55-GA-714A upgrade technical or troubleshooting questions or parts requests to Tim MacDonald (530-827-4209; DSN 855; tim.macdonald@sierra.army.mil

Also, it is **critical to keep two certified operators** certified to test T55-GA-714A engines on the FEDS. Under the "**Train the Trainer**" program, each site upgraded received a training manual for the FEDS Lead Operator to administer training. When your Lead Operator feels your new operators can pass the written test and successfully complete a check ride for 714A testing, call Tim MacDonald and pay a one-week TDY for Tim to administer the test and check ride for a certified operator. It's that simple! Our goal at the CH-47 PM is to create the best training program possible for the customers,



714A Mod Team verifies latest software against new ATP.

## Herlong High School 's 50-year reunion



About 350 alumni from the years 1954 -present attended the 50-year anniversary/reunion of Herlong High School at the Reno Hilton May 15.

(photo on left from left-right) Sheryl Arp, Bob Beckett, Joyce Hayes, Dick Snyder, Nancy McNett, Kay Mello, Robert Brown, Shirley Draper, Gene Ashley, Janine Hutchins, Max Wiles, Bruce Teake, Flo Hildre.

Alumni came from as far away as Georgia to attend this special occasion.



## Community Notes

### Local elementary school children: DARE graduates



Three DARE essay contest winners.

Photo from left -right Lindsay Stevens, Aidyn Smith and Taylor Retterath. Each student wrote an essay on the topic "Making a stand", it is there written promise on how they will stay drug free.



Kelly Revells  
Sports Director

CYS would like to introduce a new member of the team, Kelly Revells, our Sports Director. Kelly, now a resident of Susanville, has attended Lassen Community College and Eastern Illinois University with his focus of study being Health Studies. He is experienced in a variety of sports and has wrestled at a national level. We would like to welcome Kelly to our team!



Mary Jackson  
Spotlight  
Employee of  
the Month.

Congratulations! To Mary Jackson for being in the Spotlight Employee of the Month. Mary has not only been a team player but has gone above and beyond her normal call of duties as Program Assistant. She is always willing and ready to help out where needed, and she does it with a smile. Thank you Mary for a job well done!

(continued from page 1)

inscribed "Team Sierra". Third, Sierra was the only Army Material Command facility and U.S. Army site to receive this award. Fourth, I realized with this award, others now recognize what the rest of us know here, is that we do a great job delivering



April 16, the Sierra Primary School 4th and 5th grade students graduated from 16 weeks of DARE instruction. Back row (left-right) Sgt. Brent (DARE Officer), Rikki Dominguez, Taylor Retterath, Anelique Owen, Samantha Serna, Ebone' Wheeler, Aidyn Smith, Andrew Mittleman, Michael Richards, Gregory Jacobs, Mr. Terry Fickett (teacher) Front row (left-right) Lindsay Stevens, Desiree Readonour, Camera Comier, Rachel Silva, Jacob Croghan and Kandance Smiles.

### Youth summer activities

Summer has arrived! Sierra Army Depot, Child and Youth Services (CYS) are excited about all of the fun activities and trips that we'll be hosting. The Middle School/Teens are starting out summer fun, in celebration, with a dance on Friday, June 4. For grades 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. and 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Some of the summer trips include Rafting, visiting Lake Tahoe, 6-Flags Amusement Park, and a local pool party.

School Age Services are starting the summer off with an adventure to the Safari Zoo and continuing the summer with trips to San Rafael Park and Wild Waters. CYS will bring our summer fun to an end with our family trip to Eagle Lake on August 19, where everyone is welcome to join in on water fun, good food, and riding sea-doo's.

For more info on signing up to become a member please call 530-827-4696.



critical supplies and systems to the warfighter.

Our team success has allowed us to achieve new business opportunities; we intend to use it to continue to improve business processes and be the best value to our growing list of customers.



## MWR Services

### Skedaddle Inn/Conference Center

Skedaddle Inn Conference Center Lounge is open Thursday, 5 p.m. till the last customer leaves. The Skedaddle Inn Conference Center is equipped to cater large or small events.

Call the manager at 4360 or mail [Raul.Granados@sierra.army.mil](mailto:Raul.Granados@sierra.army.mil)  
Hours: M-Th, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Sierra Lodge/Guest House

Call the lodging manager, 4544, or [raul.Granados@sierra.army.mil](mailto:raul.Granados@sierra.army.mil) for information

### Sierra Bowling Center and Snack Bar

Open everyday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call 4442 for information. Check out the Lunch Specials Monday through Thursday. Delivery available on all orders received before 10:45am. Contact Jackie Weston-Chase to book your birthday packages and holiday parties. Dates fill up quick so plan early.

### Physical Fitness Center

Open M- Thurs., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The only charge to individuals is \$3 (per hour) for use of the Racquetball Court. ITR is available at the Physical Fitness Center. For more information call 4655 or email [ok.fern@sierra.army.mil](mailto:ok.fern@sierra.army.mil)

### Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental

For reservations and information call Chris Long at 4354.

### Laundromat

Open daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. in building 142. Cost for wash \$1.25 and .25 cents for (15 minute drying). For your convenience, there is a machine with laundry supplies located inside the facility and also a change machine.

### Recycling Center

Open M- Thurs., 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call 4504 for more information.

### Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Administrative Assistant can be reached at 4497, Monday-Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email her at: [Regina.stauffer@sierra.army.mil](mailto:Regina.stauffer@sierra.army.mil)  
The business office can be reached at 4178 or 4609.



